major rivers of the country. Under the programme, pollution abatement schemes such as interception and diversion of municipal sewage and its treatment, low cost sanitation, crematoria, river front development and afforestation etc are, envisaged. The memorandum of understanding for bio-lateral cooperation signed recently with the Austrian Govenment does not include specific projects for cleaning of the rivers.

**Shifting of foreign polluting units to India**

1022. SHRI SURESH KALMADI . Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign companies have shifted/propose to shift their polluting units to India; and

(b) if so, what precautionary measures have been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) The Ministry of Environment has no specific information on any foreign company sifting or proposing to shift their polluting units to India.

(b) The Government of India issued a notification on 27-01-1994 under Section 3 of the environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The notification identified 29 activities for which prior environmental clearance is required subject to certain conditions.

**Forest land under Nining in Aravali Hills**

1023. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to official statistics over one lakh hectare of forest land in the Aravali hills is under mining;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the deforestation caused by mining activities is hastening desertification in the area; and

(c) If so, what steps Government intend to take to rectify the situation and prevent further devastation of the environment and of the delicate ecological balance of the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The exact extent of the forest land in the Aravali hills under mining has not been demarcated.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, non forestry works including mining can be done in forest land only after obtaining prior approval of the Central Government. After receipt of formal proposals from the State Government the same are examined carefully to assess the effect of mining on the ecology of the area including on flora and fauna and afterwards final decision is taken. While approving such projects under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, appropriate environmental safeguards including raising of compensatory aforestation are stipulated to minimise adverse impact of loss of forest on the ecology of the area. Further a notification under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued on 7th May, 1992 regulating *inter alia* mining in specific areas of Aravali Range in Gurgaon District of Haryana and Alwar District of Rajasthan. Moreover to check desertification and to restore ecological status of the area, two afforestation schemes namely "Aforestation in Aravali Hills, Rajasthan" and "Rehabilitation of Common Lands in the Aravalis, Haryana" are being implemented.

**Cleanance of environmental Projects in Andhra Pradesh**

1024. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) the details of projects of Andhra Pradesh which are pending for environmental clearance ;

(b) since when these projects are pending; and

(c) What steps are being taken to clear these projects with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed indicating list of projects pending, dates of receipt and the reasons for pendency (*See* below). Projects can be assessed and processed only after receipt of complete data and action plans. Continuous interaction is maintained with the State Government/Project authorities to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases.